

# Public Facilities and Services

*As an independent jurisdiction in Virginia, the City is responsible for, and places major emphasis upon, providing quality public facilities and services.*

## Public Facilities

Public facilities include buildings, spaces, infrastructure, and equipment that are publicly owned or used for the government and administration of the City and by the public for various purposes such as education and recreation. Many of these facilities in the City are historic structures that have withstood years of service.

City Hall was built in 1962 as the central facility for the administration of the City's government. When built, City Hall replaced the former Town Hall, which still stands on the corner of University and Main, as well as various other buildings in which Town offices had been spread out. The City Council, the City Manager and most department offices are located in City Hall. The School Board and Voter Registration are located in the Sisson House, on the City Hall grounds. The Police Department and Parks and Recreation are located in the John C. Wood Complex, formerly an elementary school that was constructed in 1964, with an addition in 1968. The Department of Public Works administrative offices reside at the former Green Acres Elementary School building, which was transferred from the School Board to the City upon completion of the Daniels Run Elementary School expansion. Administrative space requirements have been shown to be inadequate for future needs at City facilities.

A plan has been approved to consolidate most City offices on the current grounds of City Hall. Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the City Credit Union will all be located either in the current City Hall building, which is to undergo renovation, or a new addition to be completed by 2005. The Police Department is expected to receive a new building at the John C. Wood site. The Sisson House will remain the headquarters for City Schools.

Fire Station #3, owned by the Fairfax Volunteer Department, houses the Fire and Rescue Department. Additionally, Fire Station #33 on Lee Highway, the Property Yard on Pickett Road, a water treatment plant in eastern Loudoun County, three water towers, and six sewage pumping stations are under the City's ownership. The five school properties are owned by the

City School Board with ownership reverting back to the City should they cease to operate as schools.

The City also owns four historic buildings that are popular facilities for social and educational use. The Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center is housed in the Old Fairfax Elementary School, which was originally constructed in 1873. Old Town Hall, built in 1900, has served the community as a popular social and meeting place throughout its history. The Ratcliffe-Allison House was built in 1812 with subsequent additions in the 1820s and 1920s. The Blenheim Estate, built around 1855, was used during the Civil War as a hospital. The attic of main building contains one of the best-preserved examples of Civil War graffiti in the nation, while the estate grounds are home to the annual Civil War Encampment. The City has initiated a program for the restoration and preservation of these historic structures. All four have undergone repair and renovation since 1985 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## City Schools

### **Administration and Enrollment**

Since 1994, the voters in regular City elections have elected the City's School Board at large. The School Board has responsibility for the education of 2,600 students living within the City of Fairfax. The Board monitors the implementation of the School Services Agreement between the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The Board acts as a "checks and balances" entity for ensuring equal distribution of educational opportunities for City students. This allows for the same pupil-teacher ratios, instructional support, supplies and textbooks, and program availability for all students including special education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, the Gifted and Talented program, as well as equal access to the County's magnet programs such as Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology.

Day-to-day operational oversight and minor maintenance of the City's schools is provided through the School Services

Agreement. However, the school board is totally responsible for the major maintenance, minor and major capital improvements, and new construction as they relate to the four City-owned facilities.

In 2002, Fairfax County residents accounted for 19 percent of the City's elementary school enrollment, 64 percent of the intermediate school enrollment and 60 percent of the high school enrollment (see Figure PFS-1).

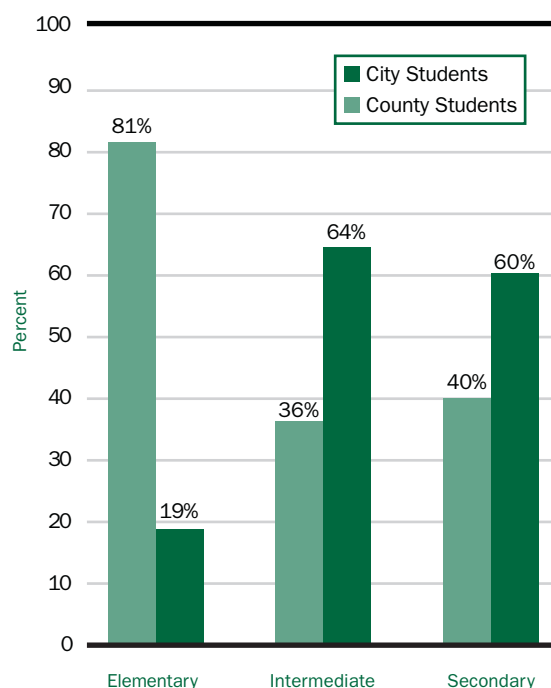
The City's four schools are experiencing the same overcrowding issues as Fairfax County Public Schools. However,

given the limited sites available within the boundary of the City, the solution to the extended school capacity issue becomes more complex.

The recently completed construction in the developments of Farrcroft, Chancery Park, Maple Trace and several small infill parcels have affected enrollment in City schools. These new homes, along with the development of the Pickett's Reserve project, will result in more than 500 new homes added to the City's housing stock. This could have the effect of raising the City's school-age population from 5-9 percent. Another factor influencing enrollment is the potential for younger families with children purchasing homes from original owners who no longer have students attending City schools. Since 1997, City schools have averaged an increase of 40-45 students in K-12 grades each year (see Table PFS-2). Projections for enrollments from new construction are based on 2000 Fairfax County Public Schools student yield ratios, as shown in Table PFS-3.

Both the City and County school administrations are committed to operating all of the City's schools with a sufficient student population that will assure a full and viable program of studies in each school.

**Figure PFS-1**  
**Student Enrollment**  
**in City Schools (2003)**



Source: City of Fairfax Public Schools, 2003

**Table PFS-3**  
**Standard Student Yields**  
**by Housing Types**

	Yield/Unit	Yield/Acre
Single-Family	.474	1.90
Townhouse	.351	3.51
Apartment	.275	4.13

**Table PFS-2**  
**September 30 Membership, City of Fairfax Students**

	Elementary	Middle	High	Total	Change from Previous Year
1998	1,317	402	873	2,592	+57
1999	1,322	420	900	2,652	+60
2000	1,373	418	904	2,695	+43
2001	1,393	417	926	2,736	+41
2002	1,454	387	910	2,751	+15

Source: City of Fairfax Public Schools, 2003

## **Programs**

Students in Fairfax City schools are afforded the same programs and opportunities offered through the Program of Studies implemented in all County schools. Daniels Run and Providence elementary schools are focus schools with strong emphases on mathematics, science, and technology, with labs and additional support staff to enhance the mission of the schools. In addition, as a result of the consolidation of the elementary schools, the elementary program has added full-day kindergarten, Latin, and reduced-ratio first grade, which enabled the City schools to offer programs that are only available in City Schools. Both elementary schools have an on-site School Age Child Care (SACC) program that provides day care for children before and after school. Fairfax High School was identified as one of the “Top 100 U.S. Schools” based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP) and International baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by students in May 2003. The City of Fairfax takes pride in its commitment to community use for all the City schools facilities, which has resulted in extensive non-primary use of school facilities. For example, each of the City schools has a summer recreation program and provides space for multiple events and activities throughout the school year.

Students requiring special programs not available in City schools can enroll without additional cost in Fairfax County schools where those programs are offered. In addition, the pupil placement agreement between the City and Fairfax County allows for the enrollment of City students in County schools with special permission. Special programs available to students include professional technical studies, special education, Head Start, and the gifted and talented program. In the 2002-03 school year, 260 City students were enrolled in County-owned schools. Of that number, 75 were enrolled in special programs.

## **Technology Programs**

Upgrading technology and networking infrastructure in Fairfax City Schools continues to be critical to enable information sharing, instructional delivery, and administrative support for student learning both in the classroom and beyond. The use of the Internet for student research and communications continues to grow exponentially and is an essential element of the instructional program. The use of wireless laptops has expanded in City schools due to increased flexibility and critical space shortages. Improving the wireless infrastructure will allow schools to take full advantage of this emerging technology. Growth in computer availability and use for students and teachers, along with new state-mandated programs for reporting and online assessment, has created new requirements for infrastructure and electrical upgrades to our networks. In order to meet these new and expanding instructional and admin-

istrative requirements, the City School Board will continue to offer support for additional funds to enable school to meet the requirements for the use of technology.

## **School Facilities**

The City owns all four of its schools including Providence and Daniels Run Elementary Schools serving grades K-6; Sidney Lanier Middle School, serving grades 7-8; and Fairfax High School, serving grades 9-12. In 2000, the consolidation of four elementary schools into two allowed the City to completely update the facilities for elementary school students. The two vacated schools remain in public ownership for non-academic uses. Westmore, owned by the City of Fairfax School Board, is leased to the Fairfax County School Board for use as administrative offices; Green Acres, owned by the City of Fairfax, is temporarily housing City administrative offices and programs. Staffing standards used for City and County schools is based upon the following ratios: kindergarten, 28 students per teacher; grades 1-3, 25 students per teacher; grades 4-6, 27 students per teacher. First grade classes in the City schools have enrollment lower than 25 students due to the commitment to the reduced-ratio program.

Improvement and expansion of school facilities are accomplished through the City’s Capital Improvement Programming process. The school bond referendum of 1997 approved the consolidation of the four City owned elementary schools into the current Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools. School projects completed recently include major reconstructions of the City’s elementary schools; a 300-seat auditorium, full gymnasium, music room addition, and Home Economics Department renovation at Sidney Lanier Middle School; and a central air conditioning installation program for all City schools. In addition to these projects, Fairfax High School has installed a fiber optic network.

Recent studies of the facility needs of Sidney Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High School, constructed in 1962 and 1971 respectively, revealed that both of these schools also need major renovations. As a result, the School Board is in the process of planning for a November 2004 school bond referendum to provide funds for the renovation of Sidney Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High School. The School Board, through the superintendent’s office, continues to evaluate these facilities for current and future program needs.

## **Colleges and Universities**

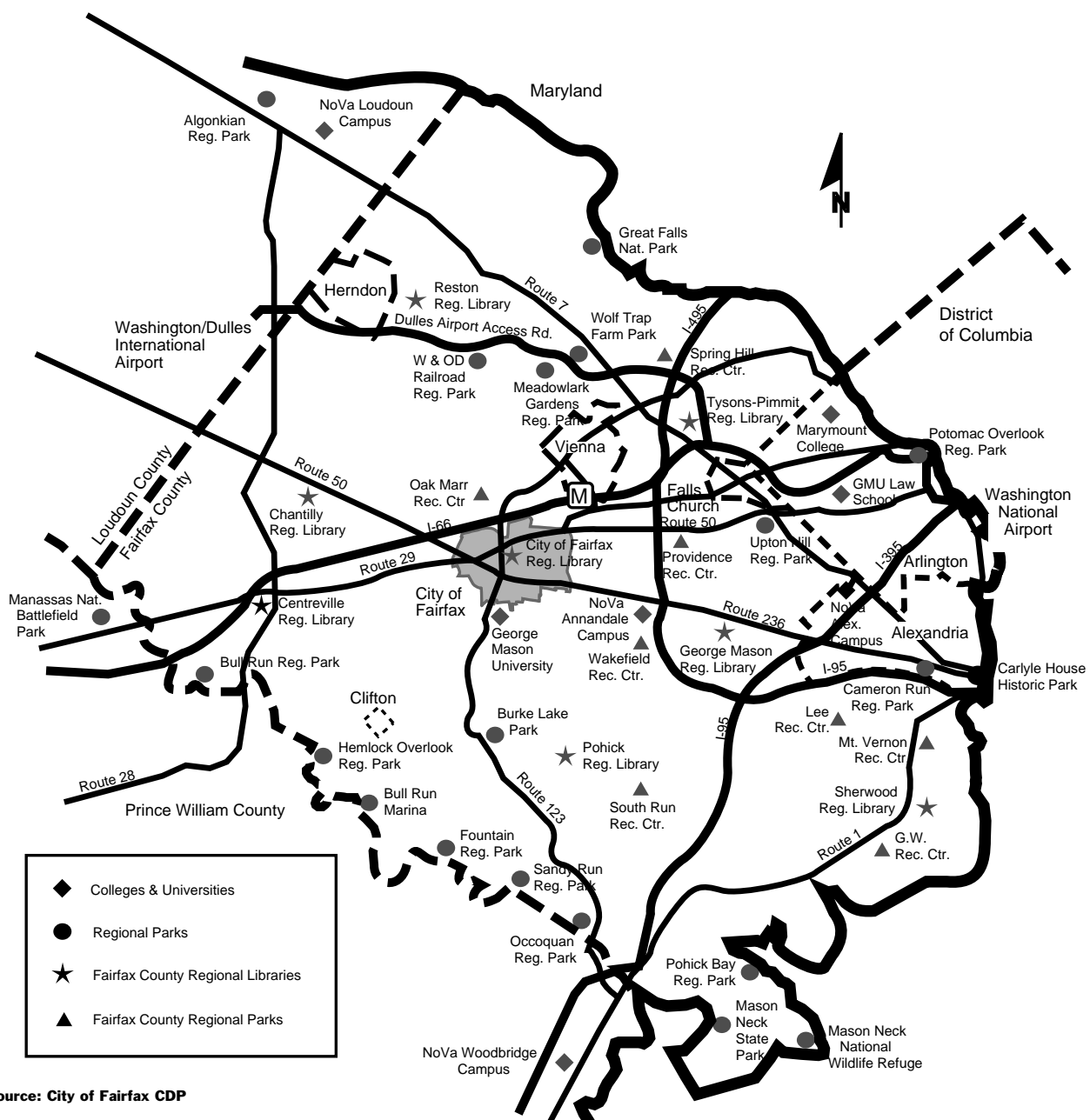
Two major schools of higher education are located near the City (see Map PFS-1). The Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Annandale Campus is located 2.5 miles east of the City on Little River Turnpike, and George Mason University (GMU) is located on the City’s southern border.

Northern Virginia Community College, opened in 1965, is a two-year State-supported regional college with campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun County, Manassas and Woodbridge. Enrollment at nearby Annandale campus was 22,822 during the 2000-01 school year and totaled 60,884 for all five campuses. The City provides its regional share of

funding for the Community College through its annual budget.

The main George Mason University (GMU) campus is located at the City's southern boundary. In 1959, the City assisted in the establishment of the campus, originally a branch of the University of Virginia, with the donation of 137 acres of the now-600 acre campus. Enrollment at the GMU Fairfax Cam-

**MapPFS-1**  
**Northern Virginia Public Facilities**



pus increased quickly as the university was established. Founded in 1966, the 1980 enrollment was 12,785; by 1990 it was 20,224 and by 2000 it was 23,408. The University projects an enrollment of over 30,000 in the year 2010 (see Figure PFS-4). Approximately one-half of the students attend full-time. The University is attempting to expand its residential enrollment, and after current expansion of campus housing is completed, the university will have the capacity for 4,000 students to live on-campus. The university expects full buildout of its residential facilities to be completed by 2020 with a projected capacity of 6,500 students.

The majority of the University's students and all of the faculty and staff live off-campus. As a result, University-related traffic and parking are critical concerns of the City. At present GMU offers 10,982 on-campus parking spaces, with plans to build 2,200 more before 2005. In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion, the City-owned and operated CUE Bus Service provides transit service between George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, and the Vienna/Fairfax/GMU Metrorail Station. University faculty, staff and students ride the CUE buses free, and George Mason University contributes toward funding the system.

The University provides recreational and cultural facilities and programs for the entire Northern Virginia area. The most

prominent of these is the Patriot Center, a 10,000-seat entertainment facility featuring sports, musical arts theater and family shows. In addition, the University's Center for the Arts, a 2,000-seat facility housing musical and theatrical productions, was opened in 1990.

## Libraries

Library Service is provided to the City by Fairfax County under a contractual arrangement based on population. City residents may use any of eight regional and nine community libraries that compose the library system. This system includes 2,603,305 items as of June 2002. The City of Fairfax Regional Library, located on Chain Bridge Road, is used most frequently by City residents (see Map PFS-1). This library is the largest in the County system, with a collection of more than 228,952 volumes and a 2001 FY circulation exceeding 689,952 volumes. The library has three special collections — the Virginia Room, which contains materials for genealogy and state and local history, a large business collection and an extensive music collection.

There is currently a critical parking shortage at the library. The City is reviewing options for developing the 2.9-acre Logan/Sipan lot in Old Town Fairfax located adjacent to the library. Successful redevelopment of this site will substantially increase the amount of parking available to library patrons.

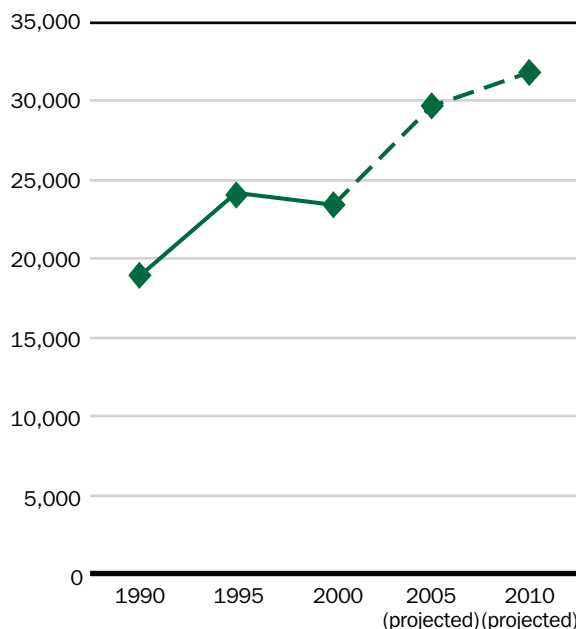
## Public Utilities

### Water System

The principal source of water for the City is Goose Creek in Loudoun County. The City owns and maintains two water reservoirs in Loudoun County, seven miles northwest of Sterling Park (see Map PFS-2). The smaller of the two reservoirs, located on Goose Creek, holds 200 million gallons of water. The second, Beaverdam Creek reservoir, is located two miles upstream and impounds 1.3 billion gallons of water. Together, these reservoirs ensure the City of a four-month supply of water against drought and low flow in Goose Creek. The combined safe yield from the two reservoirs is 12 million gallons per day (MGD). The safe yield of the system can be increased to 15 MGD by raising the overflow level of the spillway by five feet at the Beaverdam Creek Reservoir. The City is currently authorized to remove up to 15 MGD from Goose Creek.

Water withdrawn from Goose Creek Reservoir is pumped to the City-owned water treatment plant one-half mile east of the reservoir. The treatment plant has a rated capacity of 12 MGD volume and a peak capacity of 18 MGD. A 1992 study revealed the silt accumulation at the Goose Creek Reservoir had re-

**Figure PFS-4**  
**GMU Enrollment 1990-2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**George Mason University's enrollment is projected to exceed 30,000 students shortly after 2005.**



duced available water capacity by 50 percent since its construction in the 1960s. In a 1993 referendum, City residents approved a \$2,011,000 bond to begin a program to dredge the accumulated silt. The total estimated cost for completing the program and restoring the reservoir to its original capacity is \$9 million.

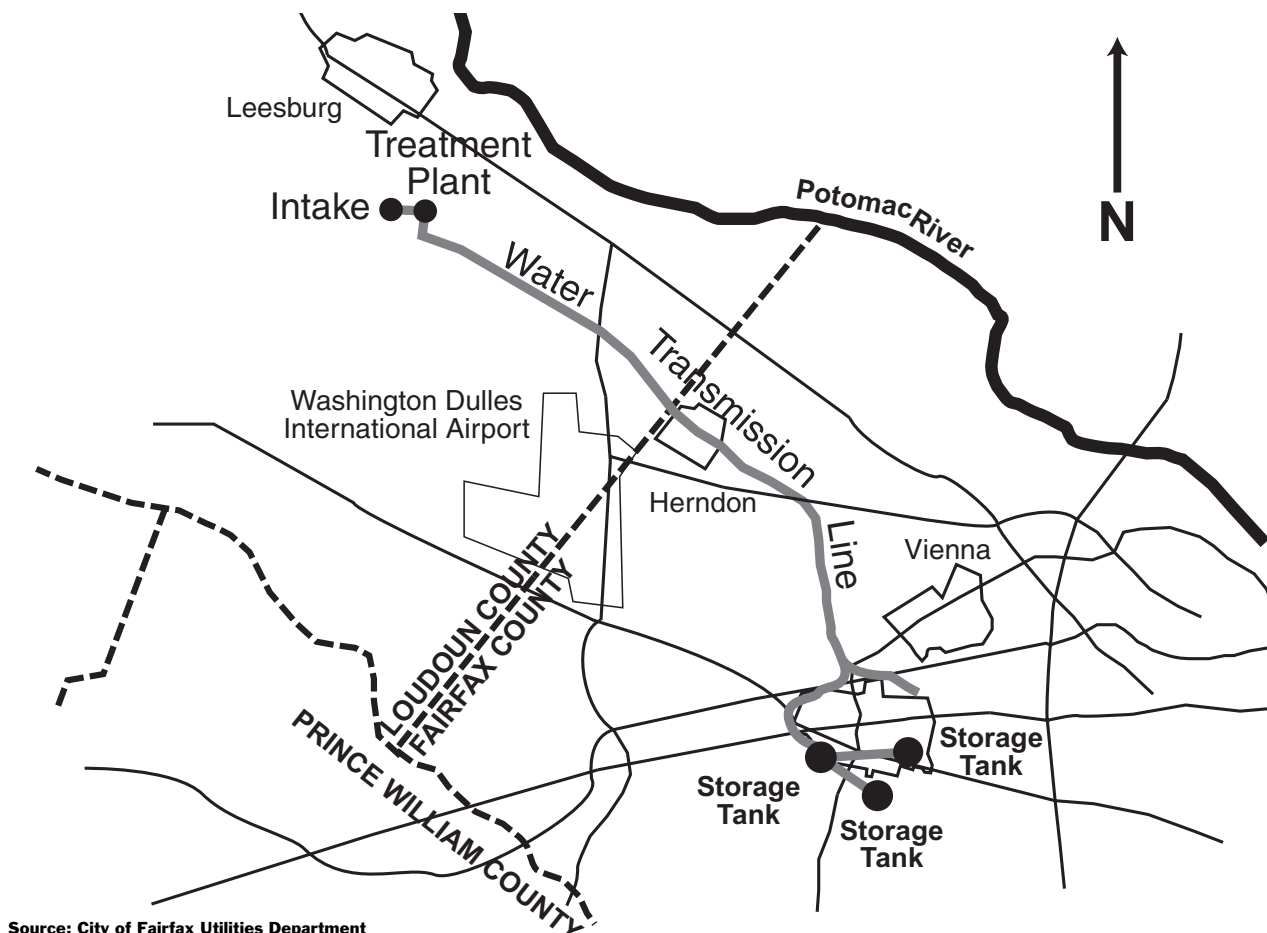
The City's main water transmission line extends 22 miles from the treatment plant along the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) bike path. Parallel mains run along Hunter Mill Road from the W&OD bike path to the distribution system at Blake Lane. In addition to the 22 miles of transmission line, the City maintains 176 miles of water main, 1,100 fire hydrants, 3,650 valves, and 10,600 water service lines. The water is stored in three water storage tanks, one on Williams Place and one behind Lyndhurst Drive in the City, and one on the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University. The three storage tanks have a combined capacity of 8.9 million gallons.

Maintenance of the water distribution system includes replacing lines, repairing water main breaks and periodic hydrant

replacement and repair. The City employs a proactive strategy in replacing water mains, detailed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The current rate of replacement of pipe in the water distribution system is 6,550 linear feet per year, coordinated with the street-paving schedule. In addition, the main transmission system is over 40 years old and is showing signs of deterioration at the joints. The City's 2004 CIP includes a project for an engineering evaluation and phased design for rehabilitation of the joints of the transmission system.

The water distribution system serves not only the City, but also portions of Fairfax County immediately north, south and east of the City (see Map PFS-3). The City wholesales water to both the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority and the Fairfax County Water Authority. In 2002, the system-wide water demand averaged 12 MGD with a peak production of 18 MGD. The average demand decreased less than 5 percent between 1997 and 2002 and is not projected to increase significantly. The service area boundaries are fixed and the area is almost

**Map PFS-2**  
**Water Transmission Lines**



Source: City of Fairfax Utilities Department

completely developed. The water system will, therefore, meet the City's needs into the foreseeable future.

## Sewer System

The City of Fairfax operates its own wastewater collection system. The waste collected is metered and discharged to the conveyance facilities of Fairfax County under a contractual agreement. The City has contract rights to 4.2 million gallons per day (MGD). Sewage is carried by the Accotink interceptor for treatment in Fairfax County facilities. The City maintains 90 miles of sewer lines, six sewage pumping stations, and one sewage meter vault. The sewer trunk system was replaced and enlarged in the 1970s to match the Fairfax County system. The life expectancy of the trunk system is estimated to be 50 to 100 years.

Maintenance of the system includes periodic video inspection of faulty sewage lines. The City employs a reactive strategy in replacing faulty sewage lines, detailed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Of particular concern is the possibility of sewage leaks in pipes under the streams. The City's ongoing program of replacement, lining or concrete encasement of these pipes helps to assure prevention of such leaks. In addition, the City's CIP carries an ongoing project for lining sewer manholes to correct damage to these manholes caused by hydrogen sulfide gas that emanates from the sewage. Altogether the City lines about 3,900 linear feet of sewer pipe per year.

While most locations within the City are served by gravity sewerage, the system includes four sewage pumping stations. The City rehabilitated the San Juan and Andes Drive pumping stations in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The remaining stations,

at Byrd Drive and at School Street, will be rehabilitated in 2004 and 2005.

The City of Fairfax sewer service area includes the entire City as well as the Fairfax Villa and University Square subdivisions located southwest of the City, and a small area north of the City (see Map PFS-4). Under the City-County agreement, Fairfax Villa and University Square will be incorporated into the County system when gravity sewers are built to provide sewer service to that area.

In FY 1994, the City used 3.91 MGD in sewage capacity. This is not projected to increase significantly to the year 2010. Since the City has the contract rights to 4.2 MGD, the City has adequate sewage capacity to the year 2010. Within the City, all areas are adequately served by sewer service. However, increased densities in certain areas of the City will require the addition of a pumping station and sewer lines.

## Electric, Telephone and Cable Service

The City does not own or operate any electric, telephone or cable utilities. It does, however, own the rights-of-way where transmission lines are located. Approximately 67 miles of streets contain large utility poles supporting overhead electric, telephone, and cable television wires. These overhead wires are a distracting element within the streetscape and present a maintenance concern. Trees must be trimmed away from the overhead line on a regular basis, resulting in odd-shaped and unnatural-looking trees that cannot grow to their fullest potential. Large utility poles also pose hazards to motorists, especially during poor weather conditions. In addition, heavy



winds, snow and ice can cause overhead lines to break, creating potential hazards to nearby motorists and pedestrians.

The most significant obstacle to placing utilities underground is the construction cost. Although telephone and cable television lines can be buried for a reasonable cost, electric power lines can require special concrete-enclosed conduit and significant material and labor costs to locate underground. Local utilities (Virginia Dominion Power, Cox Cable, and Verizon Telephone) operate within the City only through franchise agreements that are negotiated between the City and the utility companies. While the City can renegotiate these agreements, it cannot, at this time, require that the utility bear the cost of the conversion of overhead facilities to underground facilities. However, cooperative efforts between private and public organizations, particularly in redevelopment areas, will eventually accomplish undergrounding of utilities in accordance with the Community Appearance Plan. In the mid-1990s, the City began to relocate utilities underground along a section of Chain Bridge Road south of Main Street on a cost-sharing basis with adjacent developments.

## Telecommunications

Technological innovations are reshaping the way people and communities interact. Just as the telephone, radio, television and automobile shaped the communities of the 20th century, so will the convergence of communications and information technology shape the communities of the 21st century. Business, education, and social interaction are being fundamentally altered by a revolution in interactive communications.

At the heart of this revolution is the Internet, a network linking millions of people and information resources around the globe. Recent innovations in personal computers, fiber optics and telecommunications have paved the way for the National Information Infrastructure (NII) program that the Federal government launched in 1993. With access to an "information superhighway," the possibilities exist for a more informed citizenry, new business development, improvement of health care and the enhancement of public services. Citizens will be able to facilitate contact and collaboration locally while at the same time accessing, via the Internet, "virtual communities," built on common interests. As these new technologies take hold, the challenge is to ensure that the broadest range of people is provided access and the necessary skills to use interactive communications.

A public/private partnership between the City, Fairfax County, George Mason University, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, and individual businesses created the Fairfax Technology Center to be located near City Hall. The Center will provide a large range of services including Internet access,

electronic access to community and business data, telecommuting services, technology consulting, distance learning, small business tools, and leased electronic classroom facilities. The center will also provide both walk-in and dial-up services for both the residential and business community. The primary goal of the center is to provide education and training for its users.

In addition to collaborating on the Technology Center, the City has contracted with an Internet service provider (ISP) to direct-link City information on the World Wide Web (WWW). The WWW is a multimedia interface to the Internet that employs graphics, text, video and sounds in relaying information. The City's information is packaged on a website (<http://www.fairfaxva.gov>). This site has a collection of data organized specifically for access via the WWW, so that anyone with computer on-line capability can access City information and services. The City's community networking pages, through its web site, is one of the first installations in the greater Washington area to be part of the Potomac Knowledge Way, a cooperative venture of the academic, business and local government communities to use the "information superhighway" to serve their residents and customers.

A City-University Technology Group was convened to plan for the 1998 World Congress on Information Technology that was hosted in Fairfax by George Mason University. The City was a principal sponsor of this important international technology event, which brought together business leaders, academics and government officials from around the world to share ideas and innovative plans for technology advances in future decades.

One recent trend in local and regional telecommunications infrastructure planning has been the proliferation of cellular communications networks. These networks consist of a grid of cellular towers that provide a telecommunications link for cellular phones, hand-held portable phones, and paging systems as customers move from one location to another. As demand for these services increases, so will the need for additional towers and building-mounted antennas to accommodate the increase in calls. The City has received several inquiries regarding the local siting of cellular towers and is currently reviewing City regulations and technology issues regarding siting of communications facilities. The City, in conjunction with other local jurisdictions, is actively seeking to address the need for the siting cellular facilities in the region.

The City has established the following objectives for siting cellular telecommunications service facilities while indicating potential impacts:

- To require collocation of commercial public telecommunications facilities on existing structures and towers;



- To attempt to ensure compatibility of telecommunication facilities with nearby land uses; and
- To establish siting and design criteria to mitigate negative impacts.

## Public Services

### Solid Waste

The City provides weekly refuse collection for residents in single-family homes (including townhouses). City business and residents of apartments and condominiums utilize private trash service. Weekly curbside recycling and yard waste pickup are also provided to private residences. Special pickup service is available for “white goods” (such as refrigerators, stoves and hot water heaters) and large brush and limbs and construction debris, upon request of the homeowner.

All refuse from regular trash collection is taken to the Fairfax County transfer station located at the I-66 landfill. From there, the County hauls the refuse to the I-95 waste-to-energy facility. The County is under contract to accept all of the City’s solid waste.

The City has expanded its curbside recycling program to cover not only newspapers and “white goods,” but also glass, plastics, aluminum, magazines, catalogs and yard waste. In addition to the items collected curbside, mixed paper (office paper, white envelopes, computer paper, junk mail), cardboard, tires, oil and oil filters, household batteries and antifreeze are collected at the City’s property yard, where they are picked up by private contractors who pay the City on a per-pound basis. The Department of Public Works keeps citizens informed of these and other services by a quarterly insert in the community newspaper, *CityScene*.

### Fire and Rescue

The department of Fire and Rescue Services is a combined career/volunteer service that counted 55 career fire fighters and paramedics and support staff and 40 volunteers in 2002.

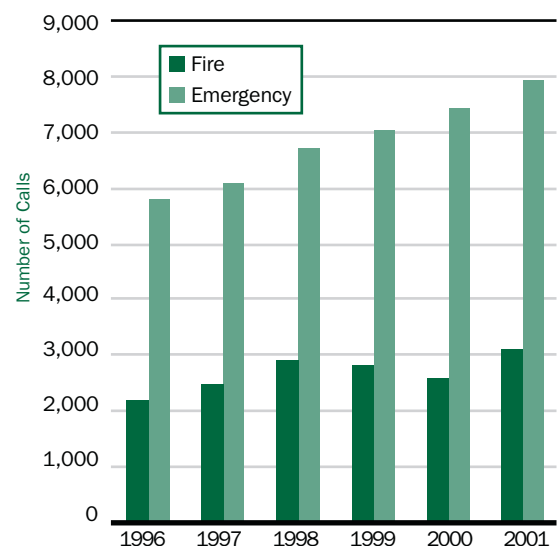
The Department furnishes fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services and emergency transportation and health care facilities both within the City and in an approximately 14 square mile area of Fairfax County. In return, the County provides a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) service for all fire and rescue vehicles as well as “first due” engines and rescue response in the area of the Pickett Road tank farm and backup in the rest of the City. In 2001, the Department responded to 3,092 fire calls and 7,910 emergency medical calls. This represented a 40 percent increase in fire calls and a 37 percent increase in emergency medical calls since 1996 (see Figure PFS-5).

The Department of Fire and Rescue Services operates from two facilities. Station #33 on Lee Highway is owned by the City. Station #3 is owned by the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., which also owns all of the heavy equipment and light vehicles. The City maintains the vehicles, trains the volunteer firefighters, and pays a portion of the utilities. In return, Station #3, renovated by the City, provides living space for nine full-time firefighters at no cost and houses the City’s Fire and Rescue Services administration and staff.

In 1993, City residents approved a \$1,708,000 bond referendum for the renovation and expansion of both firehouses to include modernizing work areas and on-duty living facilities, adding facilities for female firefighters, improving and enlarging vehicle storage areas, and making second-floor public rooms at Station #3 accessible to citizens with disabilities.

The Office of Building and Fire Code Administration, within the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, is located in City Hall and is responsible for reviewing construction plans to ensure that fire safety code requirements are met and for investigating the causes of fires and damage caused by fires. Code Administration also inspects buildings after construction and occupancy and periodically inspects all public buildings. Programs have been instituted within the department to administer new environmental legislation pertaining to petroleum storage, new OSHA standards pertaining to infectious disease awareness, prevention and follow-up, and increased federal safety in operations standards.

**Figure PFS-5**  
**Fire & Rescue Service Calls**



**While the number of fire calls has remained stable, emergency calls have steadily increased.**

## Disaster Relief and Homeland Security

While the City of Fairfax maintains a combination of governmental and volunteer emergency services to respond to local emergencies, these organizations might not be adequate to deal with a major disaster. Under the Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 1973 the City maintains an Emergency Operations Plan in the event of such a major disaster. Under the City's plan, the City Manager acts as the Director of Emergency Services, while the Chief of Fire and Rescue is the Emergency Services Coordinator.

The proximity of the City of Fairfax to the Nation's Capital gives the City additional reason to coordinate closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The City Manager and the City's Police Chief and Fire and Rescue Chief participate in regional planning to minimize the threats and actual damages of terrorist acts.

## Police Services

The City Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency, having first attained this status in 1992 from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. Only one to two percent of police forces nationwide have been so accredited.

The Police Department, the primary law-enforcement agency in the City, is responsible for protecting life and property, preventing crime, detecting and apprehending criminal suspects, and maintaining order. In 2002, the Department had an authorized strength of 71 sworn police officers, in addition to civilian personnel who provide a variety of support services (such as secretarial, records management and communications), and part time crossing guards. The Chief of Police oversees two divisions, Operations and Services, which include patrol operation, traffic control, animal control, emergency services, criminal investigations and records management.

The Department offers a wide variety of community services from providing orientation materials and information to new residents to making public safety presentations to schools, civic associations and business groups. Progressive police activity, in conjunction with cooperation and coordination with residents through such programs as Block Watch, Operation ID, Citizen Orientation Program, and the Residential Patrol Program, has been a factor in the City's low crime rate. In addition to normal patrol squads, the department now fields a uniformed bicycle patrol unit and a K-9 unit.

As commercial development has occurred in the City, there has been a corresponding increase in the total annual calls for police service. Between 1988 and 1994, the department

experienced a 169 percent increase in calls for service of all types, ranging from illegally parked cars to stolen automobiles. However, since 1995, call volume has remained steady, at times reduced from pre-1995 levels (see Figure PFS-6).

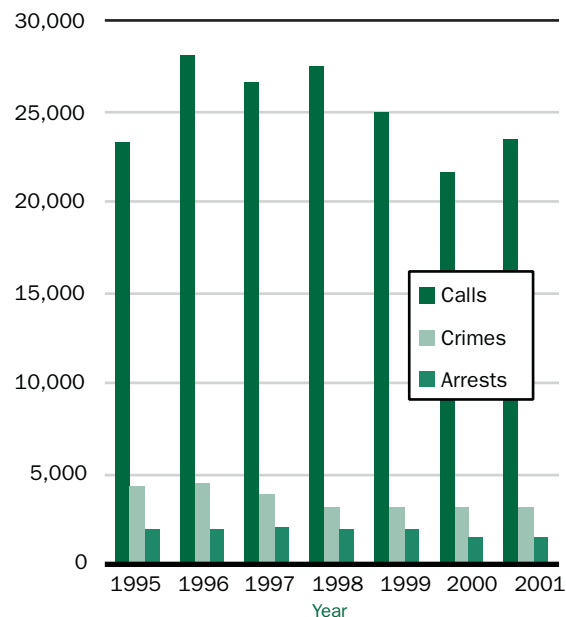
The continuing increase in service demand, which occurs despite the relatively stable residential population, is generated by the growth of the service population. The 1995 police service population is estimated at 150,000 based on the combined number of residents, employees, George Mason students and vehicles using the City's roadways.

## Administration of Justice

Traffic law violations, misdemeanors and minor civil suits are tried in the General District Court located in City Hall. The General District Court also conducts preliminary hearings for felony cases and operates a small claims division. The total number of court transactions in 2001 was 18,858. This figure is 12 percent higher than the 1994 figure quoted in the 1997 plan.

Felonies and major civil suits are heard in Fairfax County Circuit Court. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Branch of the General District Court located in the Fairfax County Complex processes domestic and juvenile cases. All jail and cus-

**Figure PFS-6**  
**Yearly Police Incidents, 1995-2001**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Statistics show a lowering of reported crimes and emergency calls with a steady number of arrests.**

tody service is provided through a contractual arrangement with Fairfax County.

## Human Services

Health Services are provided to City residents through a contractual agreement with Fairfax County. These services include air pollution control and a wide range of environmental health, communicable disease and public health services. The City contracts with Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board to provide mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services and programs.

The City also contracts with Fairfax County and various local human service agencies for the provision of social services. Programs administered for the City include Medicaid, Food Stamps, Aid to Dependent Children, day care, the School Aged Child Care Program, Child Welfare Services, help for the aged and disabled, employment services and legal services. The City employs a Human Services Coordinator to ensure that citizens know about and use the services provided by these various agencies. The Human Services Coordinator en-

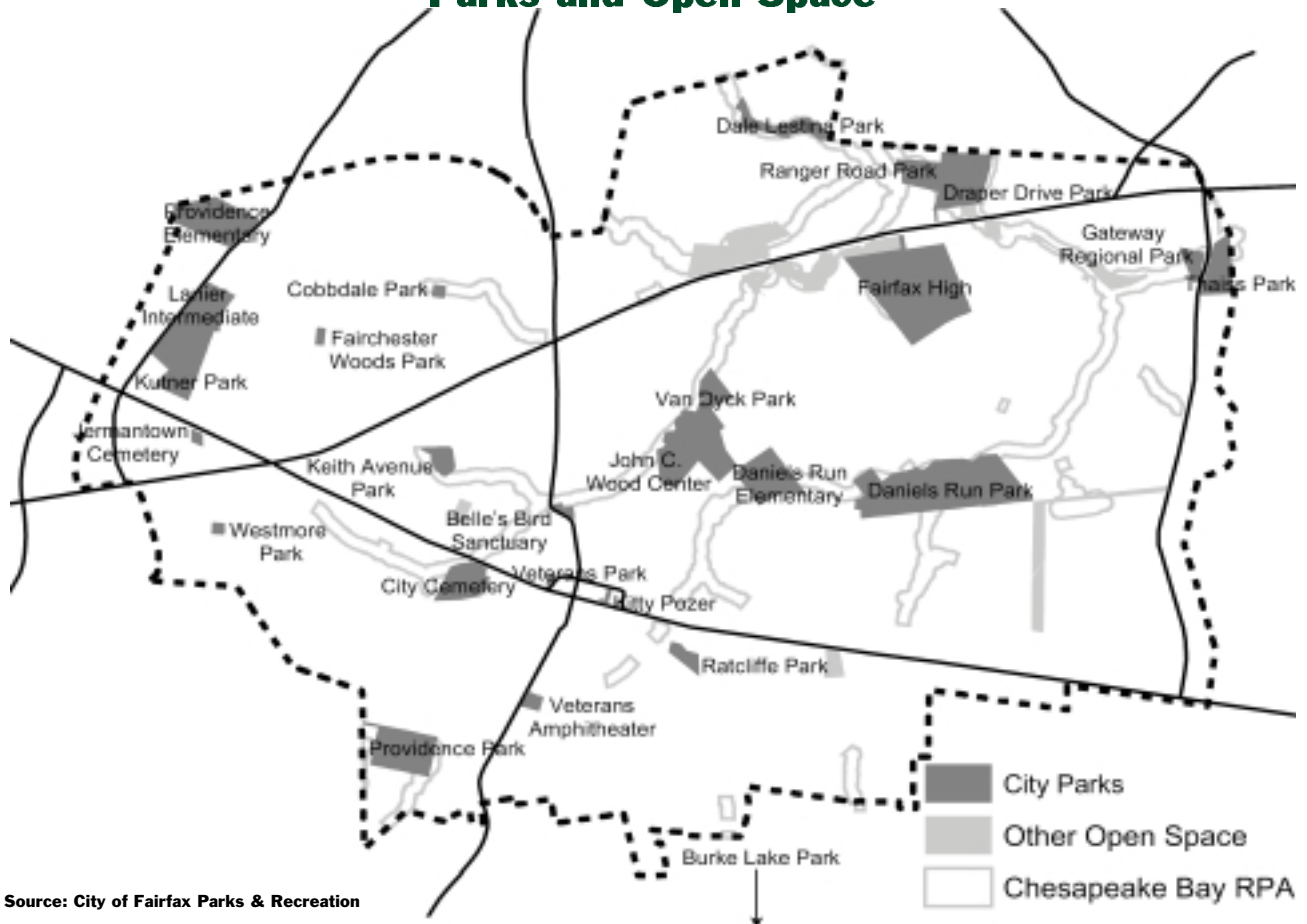
sures delivery of services by monitoring City referrals and tracking performance of the contracted agencies.

## Parks and Recreation

### City Parks and Open Space

The City contains a diverse network of public parks and public open space areas, including recreation fields, natural areas, informal open spaces and a trail system. Seventeen parks are located on approximately 168 acres of land (see Map PFS-5 and Tables PFS-7 and PFS-8). In addition, the City is in the process of adding to its broadly based holdings of open space by purchasing land with funds raised through the City's open space fund, endorsed by an advisory referendum in 2000. Included in these purchases are the Stafford Property (east and west of Stafford Drive and south of the North Fork of Accotink Creek); the Jester Property (west of Providence Park); the Pitts Property (Rebel Road and Lee Highway); and the Greffe Property (north of two termini on Mosby Road).

**Map PFS-5**  
**Parks and Open Space**



Source: City of Fairfax Parks & Recreation

The City's parks fall into three distinct categories: community parks, neighborhood parks and vest pocket parks. The 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan describes community parks as those designed to serve two or more neighborhoods and that provide facilities beyond capacity of neighborhood parks. Community parks provide close-to-home recreational facilities that require more space than can be accommodated at a neighborhood site. They provide a reasonable diversity of recreational opportunities for people of all ages including tot lots, a tennis complex, a swimming pool and lighted play fields. Open Space in community parks allows for picnic areas and walking and jogging trails, along with adequate parking and support facilities. Van Dyck Park, Daniels Run Park, and Providence Park are considered to be community parks. Upon acquisition the Jester Property will be incorporated into the adjacent Providence Park.

Neighborhood parks are described by the Virginia Outdoors Plan as those that are designed to be located within reasonable walking distance of the principal users. These parks provide play apparatuses (including an area designed for pre-school children), open play fields, multipurpose courts, tennis courts and strategically located quiet areas with benches. There are ten neighborhood parks within the City (see Map PFS-5).

Vest Pocket Parks, also known as mini-parks, are actually a subcategory of neighborhood parks. These parks often take advantage of odd-sized parcels of land created by modifications to structures, building demolitions or street relocations. Vest pocket park sites vary in size and serve neighborhoods

by providing open space and play areas. Veterans Amphitheater and Kitty Pozer Garden behind the Ratcliffe-Allison House are examples of vest pocket parks in the City. Upon acquisition, the Grefe Property might be used as a Vest Pocket Park.

In addition to the recognition of traditional recreation-oriented uses of parks, citizen groups have recently placed considerable emphasis on both natural area preservation and undesignated open space. Piecemeal decisions concerning the use of Daniels Run Park between 1995 and 2002 represent a clear trend toward the City holding this park as a nature preserve. Upon acquisition, most of that portion of the Stafford Property that lies east of Stafford Drive might be designated for preservation.

Similarly, piecemeal decisions between 1999 and 2002 represent a quickly defined trend toward holding and maintaining unused rights-of-way for their open space value. These decisions were underscored by recent actions to remove paving at the western terminus of Shiloh Street and on Breckenridge Lane, to not construct Mosby Road just east of the pedestrian bridge, and to not allow construction of Orchard Drive just south of Mosby Road. Upon acquisition, the Pitts property might be held as undesignated open space in association with the Lee Highway Corridor. In addition, the City should formally designate as open space all rights-of-way that are not clearly needed for access.

Although abundant throughout Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia area, there are no district or regional parks, by local park standards (see Table PFS-8), located in the City.

**Table PFS-7**  
**Park and Recreation Inventory**

Location	Size	Location	Size
<b>Parks:</b>			
Daniels Run Park	48 acres	Fairchester Woods Park	1 acre
Van Dyck Park	20 acres	Westmore Park	1 acre
Ranger Road Park	18 acres	Veterans Park	0.9 acres
Providence Park	17 acres	Cobbdale Park	0.5 acres
Draper Drive Park	16.6 acres	Kitty Pozer Garden	0.4 acres
Kutner Park	10.5 acres		
Thaiss Memorial Park	10 acres	<b>Schools:</b>	
Dale Lestina Park	7 acres	Fairfax High School	30.3 acres
John C. Wood Center	6 acres	Lanier Intermediate	12.3 acres
Ratcliffe Park	6 acres	Providence Elementary	11 acres
Keith Avenue Park	4.1 acres	Daniels Run Elementary	9 acres
Belle's Bird Sanctuary	1.2 acres	Green Acres Elementary	6.7 acres
		Westmore Elementary	6.6 acres

Source: City of Fairfax Parks & Recreation

District Parks, generally located on sites of at least 50 acres, are all-purpose facilities designed to accommodate a variety of day-use activities. In addition to the facilities usually found at community parks, district parks often provide opportunities for fishing, biking, picnicking and other natural open space oriented activities. Burke Lake Park, located on Ox Road (Route 123) south of the City, is an example a nearby district park.

Regional parks are usually associated with large natural resource features and are often provided through the cooperation of two or more jurisdictions. Regional parks, which are located on sites of at least 100 acres, provide a wide variety of activity to afford recreational opportunities for all ages and interest groups. A cooperative agreement between the City and the County allows residents of both jurisdictions to use all parks and recreational facilities in either jurisdiction. In addition, because the City is a contributing member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, City residents are entitled to use the extensive regional park facilities. Because of the City's central location, most of those facilities are easily accessible (within a one hour drive). The locations of Northern Virginia's regional parks are illustrated on Map PFS-5. The Occoquan Regional Park, located in southern Fairfax County along the Occoquan River, is one of several regional parks located near the City.

## Recreational Facilities

A community center is a facility or combination of facilities that are used for social, cultural and recreation needs of individuals or groups. While there is currently no dedicated community center in the City, some of these needs are met through the part-time use of facilities such as Fairfax High School, John C. Wood Center, Lanier Intermediate, George Mason University and Old Town Hall. However, use of Lanier Intermediate, Fairfax High School and George Mason University is severely limited due to regular school use and extracurricular school activities.

Since a 1996 consultant study addressed the usage patterns of existing City facilities, the City has considered the construction of additional recreation facilities. Of primary interest have been gymnasiums, outdoor athletic fields and multipurpose space. The City has partially met these needs through the construction of a new soccer field (at Providence Park) and two additional private fitness centers (Washington Sports Center and Lifestyle Fitness Center) have addressed a portion of the need.

## Park Standards

Based on the Virginia Outdoors Plan area standards, the supply of City parkland, as well as the distribution and range of park types, is more than adequate to meet the needs of City residents through the year 2010 (see Table PFS-8). Although there ap-

**Table PFS-8**  
**Local Park Area Standards**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Acres/1000</b>	<b>Service Radius</b>	<b>Min. Size</b>	<b>City Need</b>	<b>City Supply</b>
Regional	* <sup>1</sup>	25 miles	100 acres	N/A	— <sup>1</sup>
District	4	5-7 miles	50 acres	88 acres	— <sup>1</sup>
Community	3	1 miles	20 acres	61.5 acres	68 acres
Neighborhood	3	0.5 miles	5 acres	61.5 acres	95.2 acres
Vest Pocket Parks	* <sup>2</sup>	0.5 miles	< 1 acre	—	5 acres
<b>Total</b>				<b>201 acres</b>	<b>168 acres<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> District and Regional Parks met through NVRPA and FCPA systems

<sup>2</sup> As available

<sup>3</sup> Approximately 76 acres of additional recreation land is located at City schools, bringing the total supply to approximately 244 acres.

**Source: The 1984 Virginia Outdoor Plan; City of Fairfax Parks & Recreation, CDP**



pears to be adequate park acreage to serve City residents into the 21st century, there may be a need for additional recreational facilities within those areas based on National Recreation and Park Association (NVRPA) and Commonwealth of Virginia standards and usage data. The current and projected recreational facilities surplus or deficit is shown in Table PFS-9. Although the standards indicate that most of the City's facilities are adequate, some additional facilities may be warranted, particularly additional softball and soccer fields, an improved trail system and multipurpose use facilities. These standards should further be viewed in the context of the availability of County recreational facilities for use by City residents.

## Trails

The majority of the trails in the City are multipurpose recreational trails serving the needs of pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists. The City's bikeways consist of various multipurpose trails, paved trails, sidewalks and shared roadways (see Map PFS-6).

In 1980, the City's Bikeways Review Committee prepared a study entitled "Bikeway Program Review" in which it outlined the deficiencies of the City's bikeway system and recommended improvements. Some of the major deficiencies cited

**Table PFS-9**  
**Recreation Standards**

Activity	Standard	City Need	City Supply	Surplus (Deficit)
Archery (range)	1 per 50,000	—	—	— <sup>1</sup>
Baseball	1 per 6,000	3.7	15	11.3
Basketball	1 per 5,000	4.5	23	18.5
Community Center	1 per 25,000	1	0	(1)
Field Hockey	1 per 25,000	1	1	0
Football	1 per 10,000	2	2	0
Golf	9 holes per 25,000	9 holes	0 <sup>2</sup>	9 holes
Hiking and Jogging Trails	2 miles per 1,000	42 miles	14 miles	(28 miles)
Horseshoes	1 per 10,000	2.3	1	(1.3)
Outdoor Theatre	1 per 20,000	1	1	—
Racquetball	1 per 20,000	1	3	2
Soccer	1 per 5,000	10	7.5	2.5
Softball	1 per 3,000	8	2.5	(5.5)
Skating Rink	1 per 30,000	.8	1 <sup>3</sup>	.2
Swimming Pool				
25 meters (Jr. Olympic)	1 per 10,000	2.3	3 semi-private	.7
50 meters (Olympic)	1 per 20,000	1	0	(1)
Tennis	1 per 2,000	11	10	(1)
Track (Quarter-mile)	1 per 20,000	1	1	0
Volleyball	1 per 1,000	23	2 outdoor	(2)

<sup>1</sup> Archery ranges are accessible through Fairfax County system

<sup>2</sup> 18 holes in Private course

<sup>3</sup> Privately-run, for-profit facility open to the public

Source: City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation, 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan

in the study were that only a small portion of the City's bikeway system consists of a Class I bikeway (a completely separated paved trail for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians) and that there were many gaps in the bikeway system. The study also noted that the City's system was not connected to the adjacent Fairfax County and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority trails. The W&OD trail, whose use the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority estimates at 1.5 million persons per year, was connected to the City in June 1993 and further enhanced by the dedication in June 1995 of Gateway Regional Park, located at the Pickett Road/Old Pickett Road intersection. Gateway Regional Park provides a resting station along the regional trail system, with a water fountain and a kiosk displaying local maps and trail information. The

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) plans to reactivate its Trails Committee to address the 1980 program review and examine trails-related issues such as the availability of bicycle lockers. The City recently received from the Virginia Transportation Efficiency Improvement Fund a grant to install 16 bike lockers. These lockers were installed in the City parking lot (at the corner of North Street and Old Lee Highway) and in the Kutner Park parking area.



# Public Facilities and Services— Goal, Objectives & Strategies

*GOAL: Provide well-maintained facilities and superior services for City residents and businesses.*

*Objective PF-1 Provide excellent facilities and services to accommodate present and future needs.*

## Strategies

### **PFS-1.1 Ensure the equitable and effective distribution of facilities and services in the City.**

The majority of City facilities are already in place and, because there is little vacant land remaining in the City, the options for locating additional facilities are limited. Redevelopment of the City-owned Logan/Sipan site at the intersections of Chain Bridge Road and University Drive with North Street in Old Town should include public parking with a pedestrian link to the Fairfax City Regional Library. Improvements to existing public facilities and location of new facilities throughout the City should emphasize accessibility and equitable distribution for all residents.

### **PFS-1.2 Provide a wide variety of recreational facilities and programs for all City residents.**

Park facilities meet or surpass most state and national standards for a City of this size. However, a consultant study completed in the spring of 1996 defined a need for additional gymnasiums, outdoor athletic fields and multipurpose space. Some of these needs potentially could be met in conjunction with the development of new schools, utilizing a “community schools” approach. Some may be met through development proffers and capital improvement projects on City properties. Further refining the community needs assessment, identifying additional existing options to meet those needs, and building community support for new facilities are the next steps in assuring that recreational needs of the City residents are met. Additionally, any future park facilities or any future renovations of park facilities should be developed with accessibility for the disabled population in mind. Consideration should also be given to the development of a playground, such as the “Hadley’s Playground” prototype, designed specifically for children with disabilities.

### **PFS-1.3 Assure that the public educational needs of City residents are met.**

The City should continue to aggressively monitor the City-County school agreement to ensure that City students receive the highest possible quality education programs. City schools should have full access to advanced technology and “information age” instruction. The recommendations of the 1995 School Board-commissioned study of the City’s elementary schools should be reviewed for appropriate implementation measures to modernize the elementary schools, either through extensive renovation or the consolidation of outdated facilities into larger new schools. When examining this issue, careful consideration should be given to preserving the City’s limited open space, tree cover, and screening. The City should ascertain the desirability and feasibility of adaptive reuse of abandoned facilities that may be retained by the City. Educational opportunities should be further expanded by cooperative development of programs with nearby colleges and universities.

### **PFS-1.4 Ensure that City residents and businesses have equitable access to advanced technologies in interactive communications.**

The City should continue its support of the Fairfax Technology Center in conjunction with Fairfax County, George Mason University, Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. The City should strive to become an “on-line community.” Initial efforts should include maintaining an Internet presence with extensive information for City staff, elected officials, boards and commissions, residents, and businesses. To make these new technologies available to all citizens, the City should consider the use of interactive public use workstations in conjunction with a “help desk” located at the Center. The City should also encourage local businesses to install kiosks with access to City Web pages.

Specific policies for siting cellular facilities should be reviewed and periodically updated. Efforts should be made to ensure that these policies incorporate regional and national plans for the creation of a cellular grid network while protecting aesthetic values and community welfare.

**PFS-1.5 Accurately assess existing conditions and periodically revise demographic projections to determine the City's present and future facility and service needs.**

In order to successfully provide for the City's public facility and service needs, it is necessary to continually assess current and anticipated demand. The City should fully utilize available demographic, transportation and land use data to assess the adequacy of its public services and facilities and to anticipate future needs. The City should actively participate in the pre-census local review process to ensure accurate results for the year 2010 Census. In addition, the City should work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee to ensure accuracy of intercensal estimates.

**PFS-1.6 Ascertain citizen opinion on a regular basis to assess the degree of consumer satisfaction with City services and facilities.**

Through the use of citizen task forces, coordination with citizen groups, and surveys, the City can periodically assess the amount of use and overall degree of satisfaction with City facilities or services. Regular, direct program feedback by program users will provide useful input for program enhancements. Interactive communication through the Internet should also provide a fast and efficient medium for citizen input, especially open-ended responses. Such feedback is imperative to successfully operate and adjust programs to meet the needs of the community.

**PFS-1.7 Inform citizens on a regular and timely basis of the services, programs and facilities available to them.**

Because the nature and scope of City services and programs are continually changing, updates of information should be distributed to citizens on a timely basis to promote maximum participation. One way to inform citizens in a fast and cost-efficient manner is by information on the Internet. The monthly distribution of *CityScene* and local cable CityScreen programming are also effective means to distribute citizen information.

*Objective PF-2 Provide amenities and activities to attract workers, visitors and residents.*

**Strategies**

**PFS-2.1 Incorporate facilities such as trails and small parks or open space areas within and adjacent to residential and commercial developments.**

A well-defined, off-road trail system can not only provide important recreation outlets for walking, hiking and bicycling but also provide a means to encourage the movement of people through the community. The City trails map should be regularly updated to include recent improvements. Also, the Trails Committee should be re-activated to review current deficiencies of the system while providing recommendations for improvements. The City should seek funding through state and federal grants and cooperate with non-profit organizations to implement improvements to the system. Through the rezoning and special permit processes, the City should seek proffers to enhance local trails and parks and to provide open space areas throughout the City. The City should also continue to cooperate with and support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.



**PFS-2.2 Continue to actively promote and support special events such as the Independence Day parade and Fall Festival.**

The City should continue to sponsor and support special activities that bring visitors and residents together to recreate and shop in all areas of the City.

*Objective PF-3 Maintain superior City facilities and services.*

**Strategies****PFS-3.1 Continue to maintain historic City-owned properties.**

The City should maintain historic properties such as Old Town Hall, the Fairfax Museum and Visitors' Center, the Ratcliffe-Allison House, the Blenheim estate and Kitty Pozer Garden.

**PFS-3.2 Upgrade and maintain City parks, ball fields, and other recreational facilities.**

City-owned recreational facilities and the City's recreational programs are important components of quality of life. Their enhancement and protection are vital for maintaining this quality of life for future generations. To avoid deterioration of these facilities, the City should continue to explore cost recovery methods to offset the operating costs of facilities and programs.

**PFS-3.3 Plan and provide for investment in infrastructure improvements.**

The City should plan for significant investment in infrastructure (such as schools, administrative buildings, stormwater management facilities, water and sewer plants and transmission lines, and trails) to keep pace with maintenance requirements and technological changes so that City facilities will continue to meet community needs and maintain a high quality of life for City residents. This investment should be carefully planned and anticipated through the CIP process.

**PFS-3.4 Continue to improve the City's strong recycling program.**

The City should strive to increase the types of material collected, reduce the volume of solid waste put out for disposal, and expand the recycling program to segments not already participating. In addition, the City should continue to promote the use of recycled materials in City operations.

**PFS-3.5 Provide for well-trained and well-equipped police and fire/rescue departments to ensure the public safety, health, and welfare of City residents.**

The City should evaluate the use of modern position-located devices, integrated voice data communications, and remote computer access to extend the coordination and reporting resources of a centralized command to mobile and on-foot personnel.

The Community-Involved-Policing program should be continued and strengthened in an effort to make police officers better known to citizens. Representatives of the police department should visit new property owners and offer to orient them to the City, its expectations, and its services. Training and recruitment programs should reflect the increasing need for foreign language skills among police department representatives.

**PFS-3.6 Maintain a well-qualified and efficient City work force to provide excellent public service.**

The City should continue to hire and retain well-qualified staff, encourage continuing education and training, and provide facilities and equipment to ensure an outstanding level of public service in all City departments and offices.

